

## *The Greatest Paradox*

*Especially for those of us who come from godly families, there are few things more familiar to us than the notion that Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth to live as a man. Gospel preachers proclaim this from the pulpit every week, and most in the congregation scarcely blink. However, once we begin to think about this familiar concept and what it truly means, its strangeness emerges.*

*Even though we are made in the image of God, He is not like us. His ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts. He is a being entirely of spirit, and He does not suffer from the unhappy dualism that our flesh imposes on us. He is everywhere, He knows everything, and He can do whatever He pleases. He fears nothing, He cannot be tempted, and He is able to survey the endless possibilities of eternity with the same ease with which we survey the view from our front steps. He is perfectly loving, perfectly good, and perfectly worthy of our worship, but He is very alien. For God to become man is every bit as strange a transformation as if one of us were to become a hydrangea. The mind balks at imagining how such a thing could even be.*

*And yet, what we would declare impossible is precisely what happened. The fullness of deity was somehow crammed into bodily form, and His name was Jesus. Somehow, Jesus was like God and like us at the same time. This made Him different from any man before or since, and more than any other gospel, the gospel of John captures that difference. John takes pains to reveal the humanity of Jesus: weeping at the tomb of Lazarus, getting bossed around by His mother at the wedding feast, being discounted by His brothers.*

*However, John spends even more time emphasizing that this apparently ordinary man, a man who wouldn't have attracted a second glance from His countrymen, is unimaginably different than those around Him. He is the Creator of heaven and earth, and nothing exists apart from Him. He is able to create banquets from next to nothing, to heal the blind, and even to raise the dead. He teaches with such authority and power that He can persuade even His enemies, and one day, all who are in the tombs will hear His voice. Today, we must come to grips with this paradoxical portrait of our Redeemer, and the better we understand it, the better we will be able to follow Him. We must learn how our lives must change because the Word became flesh.*

## *About the Author*

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# *And the* **WORD** *Became Flesh*

## A Study of John 1-12



M. W. Bassford